

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the requirements for an election of invention and an election of species in the Office Action dated January 12, 2006, for which one month was allotted for reply. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. Since February 12 was a Sunday, submission of this response on Monday, February 13 is timely.

Election/Restriction**Election of Invention**

In response to the pending Action requiring an election of invention, the Applicant, through its representatives and attorneys, respectfully provisionally elects with traverse the invention of Group 1, having claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, and 9 to 13. Claims 4, 8 and 14, as drawn to an electro-optic connector of Group II for converting an optical signal to that which can be propagated through space (and vice versa), classified in class 385, subclass 55, are retained as withdrawn.

New claims 15 to 18 are added as an effort to link the inventions of Groups I and II. New claim 15 is like claim 1 with language generic to claim 4 so that claim 15 is a linking claims for the inventions of claims 1 and 4. Claim 16 is like claim 1 with language that is generic and thus linking to the inventions of Groups 1 and II, while claims 17 and 18 show the linking of claim 16 to those two groups. Comparison of claims 1 and 4 with new claim 15 and 16, as clarified by claims 17 and 18 will show the linking of the inventions stated to be sub combination claims by the examiner.

Conclusion

Early examination on the merits of at least the elected claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, and 9 to 13 and is respectfully requested, and of the newly-added linking claims 15 to 18.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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